

# Health Alert

February 10, 2003

HA#40 – Level Orange Medical  
Professionals Advisory  
2/10/03

**FROM: RICHARD C. DUNN  
DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: Level Orange  
Medical Professionals Advisory**

This health alert provides information on the level orange alert. Please contact the department if you have any questions at 1-800-392-0272.

I. Immediately report any unusual illness to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) at 1-800-392-0272, or your local public health agency.

II. Increase participation in and reporting to the DHSS High Alert Surveillance System (HASS). For more information contact your local public health agency or the DHSS at 1-800-392-0272.

III. Familiarize yourself with category A, B and C biological agents/diseases and chemical agents.

[www.dhss.state.mo.us/BT\\_Response/MedicalProfessionals.htm](http://www.dhss.state.mo.us/BT_Response/MedicalProfessionals.htm)

**They include:**

**Category A**

Anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*)  
Botulism (*Clostridium botulinum* toxin)  
Plague (*Yersinia pestis*)  
Smallpox (*variola major*)  
Tularemia (*Francisella tularensis*)  
Viral hemorrhagic fevers (filoviruses [e.g., Ebola, Marburg] and arenaviruses [e.g., Lassa, Machupo])

**Category B**

Brucellosis (*Brucella* species)  
Epsilon toxin of *Clostridium perfringens*  
Food safety threats (e.g., *Salmonella* species, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Shigella*)  
Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*)  
Meliodosis (*Burkholderia pseudomallei*)  
Psittacosis (*Chlamydia psittaci*)  
Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*)  
Ricin toxin from *Ricinus communis* (castor beans) NEW!  
Staphylococcal enterotoxin B  
Typhus fever (*Rickettsia prowazekii*)

**How to contact us:**

Office of the Director  
912 Wildwood  
P.O. Box 570  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Telephone: (800) 392-0272  
Fax: (573) 751-6041  
Website: [www.dhss.state.mo.us](http://www.dhss.state.mo.us)

**Category B (continued)**

Viral encephalitis (alphaviruses [e.g., Venezuelan equine encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis, western equine encephalitis])

Water safety threats (e.g., *Vibrio cholerae*, *Cryptosporidium parvum*)

**Category C**

Emerging infectious disease threats such as Nipah virus and hantavirus

**IV. Familiarize yourself with signs and symptoms of Acute Radiation Syndrome.**

[www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/ars.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/ars.htm)

DHSS DISTRIBUTION LIST: Missouri local public health agencies, state agencies and professional association groups

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